

JFK Takes Emergency Action

CUBAN

SHOWDOWN NEAR

Key Forces Are Alerted

By ROBERT S. ALLEN
and PAUL SCOTT

WASHINGTON — President Kennedy is setting in motion extensive emergency military measures against Communist-armed and ruled Cuba.

At the President's orders, large numbers of U. S. ground, air and naval forces have been alerted for possible military operations in Cuba.

Included in this as-yet-unannounced alert are:

- 18th Airborne Corps, Ft. Bragg, N. C.
- Second Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N. C.

All forces at the Navy's huge base at Guantanamo.

PRINCIPAL units of the 18th Airborne Corps are the 101st Airborne Division, Ft. Campbell, Ky., 1st Infantry Division, Ft. Riley, Kan.; 2nd Infantry Division,

Ft. Benning, Ga.; 2nd Logistical Division, Ft. Lee, Va.

This potentially far-reaching emergency military action was taken following the receipt of authenticated intelligence reports that at least 10 Soviet IL-28 twin-engine jet bombers are now in Cuba.

This supersonic bomber, known in Western military circles as the "Beagle," can carry a 4,000-pound atomic bomb load and has a range of 1,400 miles.

This means the IL-28 based on Cuba has the capability of reaching targets anywhere on the densely populated and highly industrialized U. S. East Coast.

The Russian bombers were transported to Cuba on a Soviet cargo vessel, and are now being assembled. They have long been classified by the U. S. and NATO as "offensive type weapons."

THE EMERGENCY military alert against Cuba is part of urgent planning that has been under way by the Joint Chiefs of Staff for a week. This planning was initiated by Defense Secretary McNamara at a hurriedly-called meeting with the Joint Chiefs, at which he had then he had received reports from the President to prepare for any eventualities against Cuba.

Since then there have been a number of special meetings of the Joint Chiefs.

Intelligence Pentagon sources are of the view that these urgent military measures have a direct relation to the highly uncertain Berlin situation.

It was pointed out that Soviet arming of Cuba has greatly increased in recent months at the same time that the Berlin crises became acute, and that there unquestionably is a direct connection between the two developments.

IN THE OPINION of these authorities, the President decided to take no risks in permitting Khrushchev to use a menacingly-armed Cuba to exert pressure on the U. S. in a Berlin showdown.

To the question whether the alerted powerful military forces might be used against Cuba, the cryptic reply was, "It all depends on what happens."

"Anytime. It could be in a matter of days or longer."